

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT
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MARONITE BISHOP SHAHEEN VISITS QU

Word of mouth about Quincy University travels fast, and in St. Louis, the good word found its way to Maronite Bishop Robert Joseph Shaheen. Shaheen serves as Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, and longtime pastor of St. Raymond's Maronite Catholic Parish in St. Louis. His parishioners stretch from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean.

Many of the Bishop's parishioners attended QU and often speak fondly of their time on campus. Bishop Shaheen graciously accepted an invite to QU and decided to see Quincy for himself. He traveled from St. Louis on Sept. 25 and spent the day touring QU's campus with Dr. David Schachtsiek, interim president; Fr. Kurt Hartrich, vice chair of the board of trustees; Syndi Peck, director of admissions; and Br. Ralph Parthie, vice president for mission and ministry.

"We are truly honored to have Bishop Shaheen take time out of his schedule to visit Quincy University," said Dr. Schachtsiek. "We feel our relationship with the Bishop will only strengthen our close ties with the St. Louis community."

The Bishop walked away impressed with what he saw during his tour. "I was very impressed by the hospitality," says Bishop Shaheen. "I was pleasantly surprised by the small campus and feel we have a little jewel close to St. Louis that not too many people know about, but that's going to change."

Although this was Bishop Shaheen's first visit to QU, it's not his first encounter with the Franciscans.

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BISHOP SHAHEEN/ADD 1

“Growing up in Connecticut, I lived three houses down from a Franciscan parish and in Washington D.C. I lived for a while in a T.O.R. (O.F.M. Third Order Regular) house, so the Franciscan spirit has always been in the back of my mind,” said Bishop Shaheen.

During his campus tour, he took the time to meet with student leaders, including student senate president, Mallory Littlejohn.

“It was amazing to walk down the hallway and be stopped by the president to meet Bishop Shaheen,” said Littlejohn. “That was a perfect example of why I love QU.”

Bishop Shaheen was so pleased with what he saw, he promised to take a ringing endorsement with him wherever he goes. He is sending his parishioners a letter encouraging families to look into Quincy University when selecting a college.

“I’ll tell them it’s an excellent university close to St. Louis,” said Bishop Shaheen of his message to parishioners. “It’s a student-friendly campus and very welcoming. I just think it’s a great place to go.”

Bishop Shaheen also says he’s grateful he took the time to see what QU has to offer. “It was my first visit to Quincy University,” Bishop Shaheen continued. “But I promise it won’t be my last.”

Bishop Shaheen’s visit to Quincy University is just another example of the powerful voice Quincy University alumni have.

For more information, please contact the Quincy University office of public relations at 217-228-5275, or visit www.quincy.edu.